Cost escalation in the proposed public sector projects

40. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of public sector projects, sector-wise, which are still in the pipe line;

(b) by what percentage the cost of these projects have risen as against the original estimates and the percentage by which the cost is likely to further escalate by the time the projects are taken up for execution;

(c) which of these projects are proposed to be taken up by Government during the Eighth Five Year Plan period; and

(d) the manner in which these projects are proposed to be funded by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN): (a) Planning Commission are not aware of the various projects which are in the pipeline with different Ministries/Departments.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The project proposals of different Ministries/Departments for the Eighth Plan have not been received in the Planning Commission. The decision regarding the mode of their funding will be taken at the time of finalisation of these projects for inclusion in the VIII Plan, which will be placed before Parliament in

Opening of regional offices of UGC

41. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 181 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 15th May, 1990 and state:

(a) what is the number of universities and colleges in the country which are under the University Grants Commission;

(b) whether it is a fact that there has been a long due demand for opening of regional offices of UGC so as to facilitate the functioning of the educational institutional institutions;

(c) if so, whether the UGC has received the report of the committee constituted by it to examine the matter regarding setting up of regional offices of UGC in States for the purpose;

(d) if so, what steps have been taken by Government in this regard and

(e) if answer to parts (c) and (d) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) Universities are set up by Central/State Governments through legislation. Colleges are set up by private managements, voluntary organisations or State Governments and are affiliated to the concerned University. University Grants Commission only recognises and declares universities/colleges as eligible to receive assistance under the provisions of University Grants Commission Act. According to the information furnished by UGC there are 145 universities in the country of which 102 have been declared eligible to receive its assistance and there are about 7,000 colleges in the country of which 3,811 have been declared fit for UGC assistance

(b) to (e) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission, requests have been received from time to time for setting up of regional offices of the Commission. The Commission had considered a proposal to set up zonal offices at its meeting held on 18th December, 1989 and constituted a Committee has been asked to examine the proposal with reference to the role and activities envisaged for such regional offices vis-a-vis the State Councils of Higher Education to be established in States. The Committee has not yet submitted its report.

NTR for missiles at Baliapal in Orissa

42. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Baliapal in Orissa was chosen as a most suitable place for National Testing Range for missiles but due to strong objections from local population the project wos not executed;

(b) if so, whether the present Government of Orissa has suggested any alternative sites for shifting the project;

(c) if not, what steps Government are taking for fixing a testing range site; and

(d) whether the missile development and testing policy of Ministry of Defence has undergone any change recently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) to (c) Based on the recommendations of an Expert Committee indicating Baliapal in Orissa as the suitable site. Government in 1985 had decided to set up the National Range there. The Government has received representations regarding the National Test Range at Baliapal and it is looking into them.

(d) No, Sir.

Falling of SLAB from Lord Jagannath Temple at Puri

43. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the falling of a huge stone slab from the top of Lord Jagannath Temple at Puri in Orissa, recently;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any study to know the causes for the falling of the slab and whether the ancient temple has started crumbling;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) what is the periodicity of visits by the Archaeological Survey of India to ensure its proper maintenance and preservation; and

(e) what steps have been taken for the maintenance and preservation of this historic and ancient temple?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir. A part of the amalaka from the top of Lord Jagannath Temple has fallen on 14.6.1990.

(b) and (c) The temple was examined in detail by the Expert Committee in July, 1990 with Special reference to the damage to the amalaka of the main temple. The committee have held that the following are the causes for the detachment and fall of a part of the amalaka, which is composed of several stone pieces: were (i) the inherent weakness and weathering of stone caused by salt laden winds, (ii) increase in weight of the emalaka due to the application of a thick coat of cement plaster in the past, and (iii) rusting of the iron dowels and the resultant increase in their volume. The ancient temple otherwise is in a good state of preservation.